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THE PROPAGANDA BATTLEFRONT

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The Strange Ways of the "Anti" Propagandists

Edward James Smythe, the Bundist, Christian Fronter, Ku Kluxer, alleged seditionist, etc., has announced that he is running for Congress as an independent from New York's twenty-first district, his sedition trial notwithstanding.

Individualist

In connection with his race, Smythe recently sent a telegram to Thomas E. Dewey demanding to know how he stood "on the question of Communism against Americanism; nationalism against internationalism." "As Republican candidate for the presidency," Smythe wired, "you have already gone on record throughout the nation condemning all those whose love for America makes them believe that this country should be first in their hearts, deep in their reverence and in the final analysis standing for America first."

It isn't surprising that Smythe came forth with the politically unorthodox insinuation that Mr. Dewey prefers "Communism" to "Americanism." Alleged seditionists are seldom outstanding exponents of political orthodoxy. On the other hand, it is surprising to find that Smythe isn't even an orthodox fascist.

It isn't that Smythe doesn't believe in fascism; he just can't get along with the fascists. All of which should have some bearing on the number of votes Smythe will get as a Congressional candidate. Ordinarily, candidates aren't deluged with votes if they're unable to get along even with their friends. But then there is nothing ordinary about Smythe.

Smythe, the leader of the Protestant War Veterans and the Protestant Chaplains Association, caused quite a stir in "vermin press" circles recently, for one report had it that he was going to turn state's witness in the current sedition trial, that he was going to "sing" for the prosecution against the twenty-five other defendants. Smythe snapped back that he has "a very good tenor voice" and that he "sang Christmas carols for the boys" in jail, but aside from that he had no intention of doing any singing whatsoever. Some of the "vermin" believe him; some of them have their doubts.

But rumors that Smythe will "sing" are unimportant in comparison with the other insults which Smythe has been hurling at the fascists of late. In the first place, James Laughlin, who was Smythe's lawyer for a time, is a hero very close to the hearts of the "vermin" editors. Smythe tactlessly quarreled with Laughlin at a time when the lawyer was having trouble with Judge Eicher at the sedition trial. Smythe denounced Laughlin, and the "vermin" press denounced Smythe. Nevertheless, Smythe broke with his lawyer.

That isn't all. More than anyone else in the world the fascists hate Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin, and Judge Eicher. A short time back Smythe issued this statement through the office of his attorney, M. Edward Buckley, Jr.: "While of course Justice Eicher needs no defense for his judicial conduct of this case (the sedition trial); nevertheless I feel that as a leading defendant in this Gilbert

and Sullivan comedy of laughs and errors, I should do just that. . . . When history is written about this most historic case, the chief justice will take his place as an outstanding American jurist with a deep sense of fair play and justice."

The last straw was Smythe's offer to testify against Edwin P. Banta, and, of all things, in defense of John Roy Carlson. Banta has worked for every pro-fascist organization from the American Women Against Communism to the German American Bund; Carlson is the author of the best-seller, *Under Cover*, which exposed American fascists. The New York district attorney charges that Banta tried to "frame" Carlson on charges of attempting to assault a young woman. In a wire to the New York district attorney, Smythe said that he did not believe the charges against Carlson and that he had information about Banta which he would be glad to turn over to the proper authorities.

In the light of his disrepute with the Democrats, the Republicans, and even the fascists, it would seem that getting elected to Congress would be rough sledding for Smythe. But Smythe has hidden talents. It was he who brought about the marriage of the German American Bund and the Ku Klux Klan at Camp Nordland. And it was he who, after being indicted three times for sedition and conspiracy to undermine the morale of the armed forces, obtained for the projects of his Protestant Chaplains Association the endorsement of the governors of eight states.

Elmhurst Sues Eicher and Rogge

Ernest F. Elmhurst, who went on trial for sedition early this year, is ready now to taste sweet retribution. Although his trial is still underway, he has filed a suit for $100,000 against Edward C. Eicher, the judge at the sedition trial, and another $100,000 suit against O. John Rogge, the government prosecutor.

Field Day

In his complaint against Judge Eicher, Elmhurst charges that he suffered damages "in the sum of one-hundred thousand dollars" through the Judge's having him "unlawfully and wrongfully" arrested and imprisoned. Rogge is charged with having "devised ways and means" of causing Elmhurst to be dismissed from his job as a waiter at the Shoreham Hotel, where Elmhurst worked while not attending the sedition trial.

Judge Eicher, Elmhurst says, ordered two Deputy U. S. Marshals to detain Elmhurst forcibly during lunch hour on July 12 so that the Judge and Prosecutor Rogge might question him. The object of this questioning, the complaint charges, was that of inducing Elmhurst "to make untrue allegations of fact" against James J. Laughlin, the lawyer who was expelled from the sedition case.

Accusing Rogge of bad sentence structure as well as conspiracy to deprive him of his job, Elmhurst charges that on July 16 Rogge said: "I have just found out that Elmhurst is working at the Shoreham Hotel and am going to do something about it. Elmhurst is going to give us a lot of trouble in this case because he is going to subpoena Gerald L. K. Smith and Father Coughlin and if he does that and they go into the matter of the 'Second Louisiana Purchase' and the circumstances surrounding the assassination of Huey Long and he is able to get before the grand jury the remark made to Father Coughlin by President Roosevelt when Huey Long was assassinated, it was going to injure Roosevelt in his campaign for a fourth term."

Lawyer for Elmhurst in these two suits is none other than James J. Laughlin, who may enjoy the taste of sweet retribution himself. Laughlin is annoyed with Judge Eicher for having dismissed him from the sedition case, and he is annoyed with Rogge for some involved reason. According to Elmhurst's complaint against Judge Eicher, Rogge and Laughlin have been accusing each other of engaging in various "conspiracies."

They Called It "Political Persecution"

The "vermin press" has lost a cause célèbre.

It all started in 1940 when Tyler Kent, a code clerk in the American Embassy at London, was dismissed from his job, arrested by the British, and sentenced to seven years in prison allegedly for stealing government documents. Nothing was heard about the case for a long while. Then rumors made the rounds that Kent believed in

Tyler Kent

"America First," that he had decoded secret messages between Roosevelt and Churchill who were plotting to drag this nation into war and to rule the world, that Kent was the victim of political persecution because he threatened to expose the evil machinations of the British and American leaders.

The "vermin press" had a cause célèbre. *America Preferred* screamed that "both America and England may learn something about the perfidy of its leadership in World War II" when the "truth" about the Kent case was aired. The *Herald* in Hot Springs, New Mexico, clamored for a Congressional investigation; so did C. Leon de Aryan's *Broom*. *X-Ray* in Muncie, Indiana, protested that "Kent, an American citizen, was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment by a British court on a mysterious charge." It added that, when the facts of the case were learned, "it might blast the New Deal and the fourth term campaign out of existence." The *Constitutionalist*, *America Speaks*, the *Cross and the Flag*, the *Gaelic American* all jumped into the fray. The furor rose to a crescendo when Kent's supporters told the press they were "bending every effort" to bring the Kent case before Congress, onto the floor of the Democratic National Convention, and before the Supreme Court.

The State Department must have dampened the ardor of the Kentites somewhat early last month when it issued a statement about the case. Kent, according to the State Department, had stolen 1,500 secret documents from the American Embassy before he was apprehended, and large

quantities of these documents had been turned over to the Germans. Scotland Yard, the State Department said, had become suspicious of Kent because of his association with "a group of persons suspected of conducting pro-German activities under the cloak of anti-Jewish propaganda."

The final blow came three days later when Joseph P. Kennedy, American Ambassador to Britain at the time of Kent's arrest, told his version of the Tyler Kent case. Kennedy, it will be recalled, was an ardent American Firster. It is logical to assume that, if Kent were a patriotic American whose only interest were preventing America from going to war and preventing Roosevelt and Churchill from "plotting" to "rule the world," Kennedy would have supported the code clerk. Instead of backing Kent, Kennedy said that if America had been at war in 1940 he would have "recommended that (Kent) be brought back to the United States and shot."

Ambassador Kennedy backed up the State Department's version of the Kent case, and elaborated upon it. According to Kennedy, Kent was in touch with the Italian Embassy in London, and it is probable that all important data contained in the 1,500 documents was relayed to Berlin via the Italians. Prime Minister Churchill, who in 1940 was First Lord of the Admiralty, had been supplying Roosevelt with detailed information about England's manpower, army and navy installations, and preparedness. This means, according to Kennedy, that Germany probably had "exact and complete" knowledge of England's position in the war from its start until October, 1940, through Tyler Kent.

"When (Kent) was arrested and I asked him what he could have been thinking of, he showed no remorse, but went into an anti-Semitic blast that was a terrible thing." Kennedy said.

Incidentally Kent, prior to his arrest, had written to the American Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin asking that he be assigned to the American Embassy there. When asked what he would have done with the 1,500 documents in his possession if he had been transferred to Berlin, Kent replied that the question was "hypothetical" and he could not answer it.

Spiritual Mobilization Swings Into Action

Like the American Democratic National Committee and the National Physicians Committee, Spiritual Mobilization has a distinct smell of the Committee for Constitutional Government. The Committee for Constitutional Government, it will be remembered, is run by Edward A. Rumely, who was convicted as a German agent during the last war, and Frank Gannett.

This time the connecting link is the Rev. Norman Vincent Peale, pastor of the Marble Collegiate Church, who is on the advisory board of Spiritual Mobilization and who is also chairman of the Gannett-Rumely Committee. Peale once gave the invocation at a meeting of super "patriots" where Elizabeth Dilling and Edward Lodge Curran were the chief speakers.

$50,000 Spiritual Mobilization states its purpose as "an effort to arouse the ministers of all denominations to check the trends toward pagan statism, which would destroy our basic freedoms and ideals." In the name of this holy crusade they are bombarding Protestant ministers all over the country with leaflets from such reactionaries as Upton Close, Channing Pollock, Senator Albert Hawks, all members of the advisory board. They hammer home the theme that totalitarian forces are going to destroy freedom and we must mobilize spiritually if we are to preserve free enterprise. Also they insert ads in church papers warning men in the service of "how far we have gotten on the home front from the things for which you fought at Sicily, at Guadalcanal or in Normandy."

From Upton Close we read: "Now I do not believe it is necessary at all . . . for the United States to participate in everybody's wars every time they start up. But either we are in this game, or we are not in the game. We have got to make up our minds, or we are going to completely destroy our national integrity and go nationally insane. . . . We can save America. . . . That's a man-sized job. . . . It means walking between the pitfalls of reaction and toryism on one side and statism stepping in to wipe out all free initiative on the other side. . . . Every day I get some new proofs of the plots that are going on. I have begun to wonder what is behind the Selective Service contradictions. . . . I can foresee if this Selective Service draft is pushed far enough it can completely eliminate all private business and professions in the United States — except those conducted by women."

Channing Pollock writes of the shocking expenditures under bureaucracy and warns of the "preposterous and impossible 'Four Freedoms' of slaves and convicts." Edgar M. Queeny's book, *The Spirit of Free Enterprise*, is an-

PROPAGANDA IS A WEAPON

Propaganda is a weapon as much as submarines, tanks and bombers. Friends of Democracy has been carrying on a militant campaign against anti-democratic propaganda for a number of years. The impact of the Axis propaganda is now tremendous. Therefore, it is necessary for Friends of Democracy to carry on more vigorously than heretofore. Our organization invites the cooperation and support of all who are concerned about the preservation of democratic civilization.

other favorite, and is mailed out by the thousands. This is the little number which the Committee for Constitutional Government plugged for months and offered for sale in large lots at special prices.

Spiritual Mobilization was organized ten years ago, according to its director, the Rev. J. W. Fifield, Jr. Fifield is the pastor of the First Congregational Church in Los Angeles, one of the largest churches in the country. Little was known of his organization until fairly recently, when advertisements began appearing in Fundamentalist papers such as Gerald B. Winrod's *Defender*, and people like Peale, Close, Pollock, et al got on the job. They have now opened an Eastern branch with headquarters at the Hotel Roosevelt, New York. In August the Unitarian Ministers Conference at Lake Geneva assailed the "policies, literature, and advertisements of Spiritual Mobilization, Inc." But, also recently, Fifield spoke before the National Association of Manufacturers and collected $50,000 for the movement.

Will Spiritual Mobilization use this $50,000 to subsidize allegedly seditious publications like the *Defender?* We sincerely hope this money will not be so used. What is the Spiritual Mobilization up to anyway? What is its real purpose?

SOCIAL NOTES

FLASH: The Peace Now Movement is closing its doors. "The financial situation . . . has become so unsatisfactory that the National headquarters have determined to dissolve," John Ewbank, treasurer of the Movement, announced. "Hence the local chapters must cease using the name of the Peace Now Movement."

* * *

Gerald B. Winrod, who commutes between Wichita, Kansas, where he still operates his propaganda mill, and Washington, D. C., where he is on trial for sedition, has just written a new book, the *Great Christian Pledge*. The book will be sent as a bonus to contributors, for Winrod is trying to step up the number and size of his contributions. "Our expenses are terrifically high these days," Winrod wrote his friends. "You know that Colonel Sanctuary, Mrs. Dilling, I, and other Bible-believing Christians are, these days, being given the honor of enduring persecution. . . . I am sorry to place these matters before you. But somehow, I feel that you don't mind! Your hearts and prayers are with us."

* * *

Joseph Kamp, leader of the Constitutional Educational League, recently published a new booklet, "Vote C.I.O. . . . and Get a Soviet America." The title is reminiscent of a booklet Kamp published back in 1937—"Join the C.I.O. and Help Build a Soviet America." The latter won the praise of World Service, the Nazi propaganda agency in Erfurt, Germany.

The Citizens U.S.A. Committee, one of the leading "nationalist" organizations in Chicago, is distributing T. W. Hughes' book, *40 years of Roosevelt*. As the BATTLEFRONT announced a few months ago, Gerald L. K. Smith is distributing it too. In joining forces with Hughes, both the citizens U.S.A. Committee and Smith have abandoned all pretense of "respectability," for Hughes' background is full of swastikas, the German American Bund, and alleged seditionists.

* * *

Competing with *40 years of Roosevelt* as a best-seller among the "nationalists" is *Washington Squirrel Cage*, a new book by Morris A. Bealle. Distributed by the American Democratic National Committee, this book is a thorough-going denunciation of the Administration and its policies. Besides following the usual "nationalist" line, it is full of themes and clichés common in the "vermin press." For example, the "vermin press" have been building up Huey Long as a great man who was murdered by some mysterious conspirators. Bealle gives Long a plug. Like the "vermin press" Bealle characterizes Henry Klein as a "lawyer from New York of definite Jeffersonian principles. "Until recently Klein was a lawyer at the sedition trials." Bealle uses that well-worn "vermin" cliché, "Screw Deal," when describing the New Deal. Like Elizabeth Dilling, his humor runs to nicknames—"Wallowing Walter Winchell," "Haphazard Harry Hopkins," and "Francis Algernon Percival Cholmondeley Biddle."

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